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Appointment of gem and gold jewellery examiner and Stapathi.

* 222 *Q.*—SRI T. M. DAIVASIKHAMANI ACHARIAR : With reference to the answers to question No. 73 answered on the 18th January 1954 and the supplementary question thereon, will the Hon. the Minister for Religious Endowments and Transport be pleased to state—

(*a*) what action the Government have taken to preserve the class of Stapathis who are experts in temple architecture;

(*b*) whether the Government have sanctioned the appointment of (1) gem and gold jewellary examiner, and (2) a stapathi to look after the temple architecture under the Hindu Religious Endowments Department;

(*c*) if so, (i) whether the Government have filled up these posts;

(ii) the names, age, qualifications and past experience of the persons appointed to these posts; and

(iii) whether these posts were duly advertised in the newspapers?

THE HON. SRI B. PARAMESWARAN :—" (*a*) The Government have under consideration the question of preparation of a list of able Sthapathis who may be consulted by the authorities of the temple whenever necessary.

" (*b*) The Government have sanctioned the posts of a Gem specialist, a Sthapathi and a Goldsmith in connection with the scheme of appraisement and verification of jewels and other valuables of religious institutions.

" (*c*) (i) Yes.

(ii) A statement [a] is placed on the table of the House.

(iii) No."

SRI T. PURUSHOTHAM :—" May I ask, Sir, whether these posts of Gem specialist, Goldsmith specialist, and Stapathi are permanent posts and whether any conditions of service have been prescribed in regard to these posts? "

THE HON. SRI B. PARAMESWARAN :—" We have fixed their salaries. Gem specialists are given Rs. 300 per mensem. Stapathi is given Rs. 150 per mensem. The Goldsmith is given Rs. 100 per mensem. There is one Verification Officer who is in the grade of Rs. 250–50/2–500."

SRI T. PURUSHOTHAM :—" Sir, in view of the fact that the Gem specialist has to handle valuable articles of jewellery, may I know whether the Government have taken any deposit from him as security? "

THE HON. SRI B. PARAMESWARAN :—" I have no information with me now. A separate question may be put."

[a] Printed as Appendix on page 494 infra.

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Sri T. PURUSHOTHAM :—" With reference to clause (*b*) (iii) of the question, may I know, Sir, whether these posts were advertised in the papers and applications called for? "

The Hon. Sri B. PARAMESWARAN :—" There was a specialist who was available, and we thought that there was no need for advertising the post. The Government were sure that they might not be able to get a better person for the job."

Sri T. PURUSHOTHAM :—" With reference to the post of the Stapathi, may I know why a gold and silver manufacturer has been appointed to this post? It is stated in the paper laid on the table of the House that this goldsmith was, before joining duty in the department, manufacturing gold and silver articles in the temples under the control of the Dharmapuram Adheenam."

The Hon. Sri B. PARAMESWARAN :—" With regard to the Stapathi, we have been trying to get a suitable person. But the Government were not able to secure one for that particular post to which the hon. Member wants a person to be appointed. This jeweller is also attending to the work of the Stapathi."

Sri T. PURUSHOTHAM :—" May I know what procedure was adopted before the question of appointment of a full-time stapathi was taken up? Was there not an honorary Consulting Architect for the purpose? Why was that post abolished? " 3-10 p.m.

The Hon. Sri B. PARAMESWARAN :—" The Government wanted to appoint a person from the municipal service. The Local Administration Department could not spare the services of a suitable Engineer for this purpose. Now, we are trying to get another Engineer from some other Department. Till then, we don't know whether we can take up this question."

Sri T. PURUSHOTHAM :—" May I know whether the Government will kindly consider the question of appointing an Honorary Consulting Architect with special knowledge of temple architecture as before? "

Sri MOHAMED RAZA KHAN :—" Sir, I rise on a point of order. Usually, the convention is that a Member who puts the main question gets the first chance to put a supplementary as soon as the Hon. Minister gives his answer to the main question. But, now there has been a regular race as it were between the elderly gentleman Sri Achariar who has put the main question and the young and energetic Member Sri T. Purushotham. Sri Achariar was rising in his seat seven times to put a supplementary question. Unfortunately, all the seven times he has failed in the competition. Sri Purushotham is no doubt young and energetic.

I do not deny that. I think it will be better if the Chair itself calls the hon. Members one after another to put supplementary questions. If this is done, the advantage will be equally divided among all the Members in the House. Even the hon. Member sitting to my left failed to catch your eye even though he got up in his seat seven times, trying to put a supplementary. Sir, I think it will be possible for you to accede to my request."

SRI T. PURUSHOTHAM :—" Sir, as I have already put a question, I request that the Hon. Minister may give his reply to it."

THE HON. SRI B. PARAMESWARAN :—" Sir, let me give a detailed answer. The sthapathi sanctioned for the work relating to appraisement of jewels and valuables attends to the work of appraisement of (1) silver articles and vessels, (2) gold and silver gilded articles and (3) gold or silver plated articles and vahanams. As for the appointment of an architect, I have already said we wanted to appoint some Municipal Engineer, but it was not possible. We are trying to get another engineer."

SRI T. M. DAIVASIKHAMANI ACHARIAR :—" In view of the fact that the ordinary engineers are not familiar with the work connected with temple building, may I know whether the Government will continue to appoint sthapathis and put them in charge of renovation of these temples? "

THE HON. SRI B. PARAMESWARAN :—" The Government will consider the suggestion of the hon. Member, Sir."

MR. CHAIRMAN :—" Sri Krishnamoorthi may put his supplementary, and it will be the last supplementary on the question."

SRI G. KRISHNAMOORTHI :—" Have the Government any proposal to establish a training school to train people in temple architecture, Sir? "

THE HON. SRI B. PARAMESWARAN :—" No, Sir."

(Hon. Members Sri T. M. Daivasikhamani Achariar and Sri A. Gajapathy Nayagar were seen rising in their seats.)

MR. CHAIRMAN :—" You must listen to the Chair. I have definitely said that Sri G. Krishnamoorthi's supplementary will be the last. We have taken a sufficiently long time over this question."

SRI A. GAJAPATHY NAYAGAR :—" ஸ்தபதிகள் என்றால் கோபுரங்கள் கட்டும் நிபுணர்களா ? "

THE HON. SRI B. PARAMESWARAN :—" ஒரு கனம் அங்கத்தினர் சொன்னது போல அவர்கள் 'சிற்பிகள்' எனப்படுவார்கள்."